Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /088 W

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R 270300Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3552

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON EGEN UNCTAD MU

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COMMODITIES - UNCTAD COMMON FUND

MEETING, NOV 7 - DEC 2

REF: STATE 191312

- 1. PROBABLE OMAN GOVERNMENT PARTICIPANTS AT NOVEMBER UNCTAD COMMON FUND MEETING ARE COMMERCE MINISTER MUHAMMED ZUBAIR AND SALIM MACKI, DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. ZUBAIR AND MACKI HAVE BEEN THE CHIEF OMAN DELEGATION TO PREVIOUS UNCTAD MEETINGS. SALIM MACKI IS THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSON IN THE OMAN GOVERNMENT ON MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES AND SHOULD PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN FORMULATING OMANGOV POSITION AT NOVEMBER MEETING.
- 2. SINCE MACKI IS ON LEAVE, WE ARE UNABLE TO OBTAIN CLEAR PICTURE OF OMANGOV'S THINKING ON COMMON FUND. BASED ON PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH MACKI, OMANGOV FAVORS COMMON FUND AND OTHER METHODS OF ACHIEVING STABLE COMMODITY PRICES. OMAN'S DEPENDENCE ON PETROLEUM EXPORTS AND THE ANTICIPATION OF MODEST COPPER EXPORTS IN A FEW YEARS ENCOURAGES OMANGOV SUPPORT FOR MOVES TO MAXIMIZE MINERALS REVLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENUES. MACKI HAS SHOWN PARTICULAR INTEREST IN IMPROVING ACCESS FOR LDC COMMODITIES IN WESTERN MARKETS. HOWEVER, HE IS AWARE OF INFLATIONARY STIMULUS OF ARTIFICALLY HIGH COMMODITY PRICES AND WOULD NOT SUPPORT EFFORTS TO FORM CARTELS FOR A FULL RANGE OF RAW MATERIALS.

3. OMANGOV WILL PROBABLY SUPPORT G-77 MODERATES WITHOUT

TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE ON MOST ISSUES. THE GENERAL ARAB CONSENSUS WILL PROBABLY BE FOLLOWED IN ALL VOTING SITUATIONS. SINCE OMAN DOES NOT HAVE GREAT WEIGHT IN GROUP OF 77 DISCUSSIONS, WE DO NOT THINK A SPECIAL TRIP BY U.S. EXPERT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE. HOWEVER, MACKI AND ZUBAIR ARE OPEN-MINDED AND PRO-WESTERN AND MIGHT BE RECEPTIVE TO INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. DELEGATES AT CONFERENCE.

4. WE WILL DISCUSS COMMON FUND WITH MACKI AND PRESENT TALKING POINTS AFTER HE RETURNS FROM VACATION. WOLLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: COMMODITIES, MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MUSCAT01258
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770310-0726

Format: TEL From: MUSCAT

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770816/aaaaampe.tel

Line Count: 73 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 74dedf51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ACTION IO

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: 77 STĂTE 191312

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 18-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1459765 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COMMODITIES - UNCTAD COMMON FUND MEETING, NOV 7 - DEC 2

TAGS: ECON, EGEN, MU, UNCTAD

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/74dedf51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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